

A NEW SPECIES OF *MENTZELIA* (LOASACEAE) FROM NUEVO LEÓN,
MEXICO

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ABSTRACT

Mentzelia hintoniorum B.L. Turner & Hempel, *spec. nov.*, is described and illustrated. It is known only from gypseous soils near San Roberto, Mpio. Galeana, Nuevo León. The taxon belongs to the sect. *Bartonia* and is seemingly most closely related to *M. mexicana* but is distinguished from that species by numerous features including habit, vestiture, and flower size.

KEY WORDS: Loasaceae, *Mentzelia*, México, Nuevo León, systematics

Routine identification of Mexican plants has revealed the following novelty.

MENTZELIA HINTONIORUM B.L. Turner & Hempel, *spec. nov.* Figure 1.

TYPE: MEXICO. Nuevo León: Mpio. Galeana, San Roberto to "Y," (24° 41' 55" N, 100° 10' 34" W) 2015 m, gypsum hillside, 5 Sep 1995, *Hinton et al.* 25495 (HOLOTYPE: TEX).

Similis *M. mexicanae* M.J. Thompson et Zavort. sed caulibus rectis, non ramosis infra, em corona radicum lignearum exorientibus, et floribus majoribus, petalis plerumque 20-22 mm longis (vice 10-15 mm longis), staminibus exterioribus ca. 13 mm longis (vice ca. 9 mm longis).

Simple-stemmed (or sparsely branched following injury) perennial herbs ca. 30 cm high, arising from the crown of woody roots. Stems straight, not at all fractiflex, ca. 3 mm across at midstem, moderately pubescent with stiff, multiseptate, glochidiate hairs, forming a vestiture ca. 0.5 mm high. Leaves linear-oblongate, not clearly petiolate, gradually reduced upwards, those at midstem mostly 3-4 cm long, 4-7 mm wide, pubescent like the stems, but sparsely so, and the surfaces mostly glabrous, the margins with 3-7 shallow lobes. Flowers 1-3, terminal. Calyx cup at anthesis 3-5 mm high; lobes lanceolate, ca. 12 mm long, 2.5 mm wide at base, fused below for



Figure 1. *Mentzelia hintoniorum*, from holotype

1.5-2.0 mm, pubescent like the stems. Petals 10, yellow, 20-22 mm long, ca. 5 mm wide, gradually tapered from above into a narrow claw ca. 8 mm long. Stamens numerous, 10-13 mm long, the outermost anthers borne on narrow filaments. Capsules 20-25 mm long, 8-10 mm wide (pressed); lobes 4-6 mm long. Seeds white, smooth, 2.5-3.0 mm long, ca. 2 mm wide; wings ca. 0.5 mm wide.

Mentzelia hintoniorum is closely related to *M. mexicana* Thompson & Zabort. of the sect. *Bartonia* (cf. Thompson & Powell 1981). It is readily distinguished from *M. mexicana* by its unbranched straight stems which arise from the crown of woody tap roots (vs. much-branched stems from tough but scarcely woody tap roots), more prominent stem-hairs, the vestiture ca. 0.5 mm high, lacking an understory of minute hairs (vs. vestiture ca. 0.25 mm high and minutely pubescent beneath), and much larger petals (20-22 mm long vs. 10-15 mm long).

Thompson & Powell (1981) provided a detailed account of *Mentzelia mexicana* and closely related taxa, mapping the distribution of each taxon. None of these was shown to occur in Nuevo León. *Mentzelia hintoniorum* occurs in a region of Nuevo León (near San Roberto) where numerous gypseous endemics occur, the present apparently being yet another.

It is a pleasure to honor the remarkable Hinton clan with this rare novelty, the collectors noting the taxon to be represented by only "a few plants." at the locality concerned, which is very near the type locality of the localized *Arenaria hintoniorum* B.L. Turner.

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LITERATURE CITED

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